

We claim:

1. A method for mixing a liquid in a container in a diagnostic analyzer comprising:
- 5 (a) providing a probe having a probe tip for aspirating and dispensing the liquid in the container;
- (b) providing the container containing one or more liquid(s) to be mixed;
- 10 (c) inserting the probe into a first location of the container;
- (d) aspirating the one or more liquid(s) into the probe;
- (e) repositioning the probe or container to place the probe at a second location in the container; and
- (f) dispensing the one or more liquid(s) with the probe.
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- (g) repositioning the probe or container to place the probe at a third location in the container; and
- (h) aspirating the one or more liquid(s) with the probe;
- 20 (i) repositioning the probe or container to place the probe at a fourth location in the container; and
- (j) dispensing the one or more liquid with the probe.
3. A method according to claim 2, further comprising:
- 25 (k) repositioning the probe or container to place the probe at a fifth location in the container;
- (l) aspirating the one or more liquid with the probe; and
- (m) dispensing the one or more liquid with the probe.
- 30 4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- aspirating and dispensing the liquid at one location before repositioning the probe to another location.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the repositioning is achieved by moving the probe.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the repositioning is achieved by moving the container.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the probe tip comprises a disposable tip, which is replaced before step (a).

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the container is a cuvette.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the cross-section of the cuvette is rectangular.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the repositioning is horizontal.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the repositioning is vertical.

12. A method of determining the amount of an analyte in a sample, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a sample containing an analyte in a container;
- (b) providing a first reagent in the container;
- (c) mixing the first reagent and sample according to claim 1;
- (d) optionally incubating the combined sample and reagent;
- (e) optionally adding a second reagent to the container and mixing the second reagent and sample and first reagent according to claim 1; and
- (f) analyzing the sample for an analyte.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the probe is used to dispense the sample, first and second reagent and a new probe tip is provided before each dispense of the sample, first and second reagent.

5           14. A method according to claim 12, wherein the analyte is high density lipoprotein.

15           15. A method according to claim 1 implemented by a computer program interfacing with a computer.

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16. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code configured to conduct the process of claim 1.

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17. A method according to claim 1, wherein the probe tip is moved sideways to reposition the probe tip and the probe tip is disposable and has a flat side in order to stir the fluid when the tip is moved sideways in the container.

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18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the flat side is oriented to be perpendicular to the direction of movement of the probe tip.